

EARL BLUMENAUER

THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1502 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4811  
FAX: (202) 225-8941

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
729 N.E. OREGON STREET  
SUITE 115  
PORTLAND, OR 97232  
(503) 231-2300  
FAX: (503) 230-5413  
website: blumenauer.house.gov

August 9, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As you wrap up your Back to Our Roots RV tour across the Midwestern states, I invite you to next expand your horizons and visit my home state of Oregon, where exciting things are happening in our food and farm industries, but additional federal investment through the Farm Bill is needed.

Producing more than 220 commodities as part of its agriculture and fisheries, Oregon may be small, but it is a powerful player in specialty, sustainable, and organic crop production. With 12 agricultural commodities exceeding \$100 million in production value, Oregon is different from many Midwestern states, which rely upon a small handful of crops. It's worth your time to see this difference and hear from Oregon food and farm interests as you gather information from states in advance of the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

Given my constituents' interest in sustainable agriculture and access to healthy food, I have already done some of the work for you. Over the course of two years, I gathered feedback from a diverse range of food and farm stakeholders – farmers, ranchers, agricultural researchers, farmworkers, nutrition advocates, conservation interests, winemakers, nurseries, wheatgrowers, processors, agricultural policy advocates, and more – about their priorities for the next Farm Bill. This feedback is documented in the enclosed report, entitled *Growing Opportunities: Reforming the Farm Bill for Every American*. Some of these proposals were even included in your Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. I invite you to take a look.

Oregon has much to offer and is similar to many states that are underserved by Farm Bill programs. Please consider visiting our state as you tour the country seeking input on the next bill. You won't be disappointed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress